

- 13 -

PATENT CLAIMS

1. Domestic appliance, in particular a built-in domestic appliance, comprising at least one optical operation indicator, which can be covered by at least one cover element, at least one fibre optic being coupled to the optical operation indicator for transmitting at least one emitted light signal, characterised in that the fibre optic (12, 23) is designed in such a way that its light route (27, 27') is adapted to the thickness of the cover element (3, 9).
2. Domestic appliance according to Claim 1, characterised in that, in order to adapt the light route (27, 27'), the fibre optic (23) can be displaced relative to the optical operation indicator (10).
3. Domestic appliance according to Claim 1, characterised in that, in order to adapt the light route (27, 27'), a projection length (58) is provided on the fibre optic (23, 63), by which the fibre optic (23, 63) can be displaced relative to the cover element (3,9).
4. Domestic appliance according to Claim 1, characterised in that the fibre optic (23) is composed of at least two parts, in such a way that, in order to adapt the light route (27, 27'), the second part of the fibre optic (42) can be displaced relative to the first part of the fibre optic (41).
5. Domestic appliance according to Claim 2, 3, or 4, characterised in that a fixing device (21) is provided for, with which the fibre optic (23, 42) can be fixed in a predetermined displacement position.

- 14 -

6. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the cover element is formed by a front door (4) and/or an appliance front cladding (9) or a work surface (3) arranged in front of this.
7. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 42) is arranged in at least one of the edge areas (6, 7, 8) of the cover element (4, 9).
8. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 42) is arranged outside the upper edge area (6) of the cover element (4, 9).
9. Domestic appliance according to one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the coupling location of the fibre optic (63, 41) is arranged at the optical operation indicator (10', 10'') behind the cover element (9).
10. Domestic appliance according to Claim 9, characterised in that at least one passage aperture (62) is provided for in the cover element (9), which comprises at least fibre optic (63).
11. Domestic appliance according to Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the coupling location of the fibre optic (53) to the optical operation indicator (10") is arranged inside the housing (50) of the domestic appliance (1).
12. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing

- 15 -

Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 41, 42, 63) is designed in the form of a bar, disk, or cylinder.

13. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 41, 42, 63) is designed as rigid or flexible.
14. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 42, 63) is arranged in such a way that the light signal (11, 31, 33, 44, 67) can be transferred onto the front side of the cover element (13).
15. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 41, 42, 63) comprises at least one glass fibre.
16. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the fibre optic (23, 41, 42, 63) comprises at least one plastic fibre.
17. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the optical operation indicator (10) is designed in such a way that at least the operational states (ON, OFF) of the domestic appliance (1), switched on or off, can be signalled.
18. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the optical operation indicator (10) comprises at least one light-emitting diode (20).

- 16 -

19. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the optical operation indicator (10) is designed in such a way that a light signal (31, 33) of a different colour can be emitted for different operational states (ON, OFF).
20. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that several fibre optics (63) are provided for the transfer of the light signal (61,31,33) relating to different operational states (ON, OFF).
21. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that fibre optics (63) of different colours are provided for the displaying of different operational states (ON, OFF).
22. Domestic appliance according to one of the foregoing Claims, characterised in that the domestic appliance (1) is a dishwasher.